



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending May 22, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Good Week for Field Work: Dry weather continued throughout much of the Commonwealth; however, scattered showers late in the week brought relief to many parts of the state. Moisture levels remain below average, but forecasted showers continue to raise hopes among producers that the continued dry weather may be drawing to an end. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included planting corn, planting soybeans, cutting hay, cutting rye, spraying herbicides, spreading manure, lime, and fertilizer, implementing conservation practices, rotating cattle, preparing hay equipment, and making machinery repairs.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 22, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
7	29	64	0

Crops: Weather conditions were conducive this past week to the emergence of this year's oat crop, as 91 percent of oats have emerged now. This is well ahead of the historic pace for Pennsylvania. Oat conditions remain steady with 70 percent of what has emerged rated as either good or excellent. Barley is heading out at 85 percent now, slightly behind last year's pace and the 5-year average. The first signs of barley turning yellow are in. Six percent has turned yellow, which is slightly behind the 5-year average. Corn continues to be planted ahead of schedule as 85 percent of this year's crop is in the ground. Sixty-two percent of this year's soybean crop is planted, 29 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Eighty percent of potatoes are now planted, ahead of normal for this time of year. Only 20 percent of the tobacco crop has been transplanted, behind last year and historic plantings. Winter wheat headed has reached 46 percent, which caught up some from last week but remains behind last year's pace. Eighty-two percent of winter wheat is rated as either good or excellent. Hay season continues full steam ahead with 27 percent of alfalfa having been cut for this year's hay crop. Timothy clover stands have had 13 percent removed off the first cutting, which is slightly ahead of last year. Seventy percent of the alfalfa stand is rated good to excellent, and timothy clover stands are at 66 percent good to excellent. The quality of hay made this week was 8 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 39 percent excellent.

Ninety-four percent of peaches are rated as either good or excellent, and 99 percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent. Thus far, late season frosts have not had an immediate impact on peaches and apples, although there are reports of significant damage to pears and apricots.

Livestock: Pasture conditions were rated as 1 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. The conditions improved slightly from the previous week. Farmers are rotating cattle throughout the state.

U.S. As of May 15, 2005: Highlights: Wet conditions prevailed from the Pacific Northwest to the western Corn Belt, bringing much-needed moisture to most areas but seriously hindering fieldwork. Meanwhile, flooding threatened newly planted corn in Nebraska, and hailstorms caused some damage to winter wheat in Kansas. Across the central and eastern Corn Belt, rainfall benefitted crops but caused few planting delays. Mostly dry conditions prevailed in the Southeast and Mississippi Delta, favoring fieldwork, particularly cotton and peanut planting. In the southern Great Plains, soil moisture shortages remained a concern despite moderate precipitation. Conditions were seasonably dry in the Southwest. Corn: Eighty-nine percent of the acreage had been seeded, compared with 91 percent last year and 79 percent for the 5-year average. Emergence advanced to 41 percent complete, 18 percentage points behind last year and 7 points behind normal. Soybeans: Growers had planted 46 percent of their acreage, 5 points behind last year but 7 points ahead of normal. Eleven percent of the crop had emerged, compared with 17 percent last year and 14 percent for the 5-year average. Winter Wheat: Fifty-nine percent of the crop was at or beyond the heading stage, 8 points behind last year and 3 points behind normal. Small Grains: Barley growers had planted 83 percent of their acreage, compared with 88 percent last year and 73 percent for the 5-year average. Emergence reached 48 percent complete, 12 points behind last year but 3 points ahead of normal. Oat growers had planted 96 percent of their acreage, 1 point ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of normal. Emergence advanced to 78 percent complete, compared with 81 percent last year and 72 percent for the normal. Planting reached completion in Nebraska and South Dakota ahead of the normal pace. Progress was at or ahead of normal in all growing areas. Emergence was slightly behind normal in the Ohio Valley and Wisconsin, but ahead of normal elsewhere.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 22, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 22, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	68	36	51	-8	0.00	0	5.11	-0.48	22	159	-14	495
Franklin	70	35	52	-7	0.24	2	5.55	-0.58	22	153	-19	536
Meadville	69	33	52	-6	0.16	1	4.70	-1.21	19	178	34	558
Mercer	71	37	53	-6	0.29	2	6.77	0.83	23	141	-38	502
Springboro	71	31	50	-9	0.17	3	6.91	1.56	23	114	-71	433
Warren	71	33	52	-7	0.04	1	6.17	-0.07	20	146	-15	508
North Central												
Bradford Region	67	26	49	-6	0.07	1	3.61	-2.49	22	99	-1	394
Emporium	72	32	52	-4	0.06	1	2.92	-3.55	21	138	21	501
Kane	68	25	47	-7	0.00	0	4.10	-2.34	20	64	-32	349
Laporte	67	36	51	-7	0.13	3	6.18	0.15	23	124	-57	453
Lock Haven	73	37	55	-5	0.51	3	3.18	-2.45	18	205	0	618
Port Allegany	68	29	50	-7	0.04	2	2.78	-2.88	18	101	-26	399
Renovo	73	36	55	-5	0.28	2	2.93	-2.70	19	192	-13	604
Ridgway	69	30	49	-6	0.30	2	3.58	-2.89	18	99	-18	438
Stevenson Dam	72	36	54	-2	0.20	3	3.32	-3.15	22	172	55	566
Towanda	74	35	53	-6	0.25	2	4.99	-0.33	16	145	-41	521
Wellsboro	67	32	50	-5	0.00	0	3.65	-0.93	17	114	12	415
Williamsport	74	39	57	-5	0.38	3	5.00	-0.89	15	266	8	690
Northeast												
Hawley	73	33	53	-4	0.10	3	6.26	0.03	17	116	-11	456
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	74	39	55	-5	0.05	2	4.44	-1.06	16	261	38	685
Susquehanna	72	36	53	-4	0.09	3	5.86	-0.58	19	127	13	485
West Central												
Butler	72	37	54	-5	0.26	2	5.88	-0.14	20	192	-5	616
New Castle	75	37	55	-5	0.13	1	6.86	1.42	21	210	21	630
Slippery Rock	74	37	53	-5	0.33	1	6.49	0.83	21	193	25	627
Central												
Altoona/Blair	71	37	53	-8	0.34	2	1.03	-4.67	9	217	-21	620
DuBois	68	32	52	-7	0.23	3	3.80	-2.29	25	190	17	577
Lewistown	73	40	55	-6	0.48	3	3.95	-1.84	18	244	-38	689
Middletown	77	47	61	-3	0.30	3	5.33	-0.91	14	380	54	865
Prince Gallitzi	70	31	49	-8	0.54	3	3.47	-4.11	21	123	-31	481
Selinsgrove	75	40	55	-5	0.47	3	5.60	-0.24	15	196	-37	621
State College	73	41	55	-6	0.61	3	2.46	-2.94	16	236	16	670
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	77	38	57	-5	0.73	4	7.36	0.84	17	280	7	739
Lehighton	75	40	55	-6	0.47	4	8.14	1.75	18	203	-56	641
Matamoras	74	36	53	-7	0.09	2	6.26	-0.78	19	139	-74	518
Tobyhanna	75	39	55	1	0.55	4	6.53	-0.80	19	186	91	612
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	70	42	56	-5	0.30	3	4.47	-1.73	19	347	105	816
Derry	70	37	53	-7	0.27	2	5.41	-0.68	21	216	14	642
Myersdale	67	33	49	-10	1.06	3	3.62	-3.41	17	98	-98	435
Mount Pleasant	70	38	53	-5	0.16	3	3.37	-3.68	24	206	47	635
Pittsburgh Intl	70	41	55	-6	0.48	3	6.13	0.47	22	307	43	759
Rector	69	39	53	-5	0.80	3	5.04	-2.01	24	200	41	626
Waynesburg	72	38	54	-7	0.72	2	4.60	-1.66	18	208	-14	646
South Central												
Biglerville	82	41	57	-7	1.51	3	5.66	-0.34	16	282	-43	745
Everett	71	34	50	-10	1.09	3	3.34	-2.62	16	115	-107	476
Hanover	76	37	55	-8	1.08	3	5.31	-0.69	16	270	-55	724
Shippensburg	77	40	57	-7	0.68	3	3.88	-1.91	16	284	-54	735
South Mountain	74	42	56	-4	0.86	2	5.42	-0.28	14	269	38	732
York	75	38	55	-8	0.48	2	4.43	-1.76	12	298	-37	751
Southeast												
Green Lane	76	41	57	-4	0.63	4	8.08	1.47	16	260	7	726
Hamburg	77	42	58	-3	0.63	3	6.39	-0.90	15	294	92	754
Hopewell	76	41	57	-7	0.91	4	6.42	-0.31	17	264	-84	732
Lancaster	75	41	57	-5	0.56	4	4.87	-1.26	15	306	29	770
Neshaminy Falls	76	41	57	-5	0.97	3	5.99	-1.24	15	216	-53	658
New Holland	77	41	58	-5	0.78	4	5.37	-0.76	15	307	30	775
Philadelphia	76	45	60	-4	1.05	3	6.43	0.14	14	393	30	900
Philadelphia NE	79	44	60	-5	0.94	3	5.85	-0.44	13	373	10	869
Reading	78	39	57	-5	0.63	4	5.73	-1.16	14	329	72	799
Valley Forge Na	76	36	55	-10	0.79	3	8.53	1.80	14	227	-121	663
Willow Grove	76	42	58	-4	0.74	2	5.48	-1.75	13	321	52	803

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).
Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.
Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.
Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.
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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy Behney (FSA) - Adams County received very light showers in some parts of the county last Saturday night and Sunday night. As of this morning we had ¹/₂ of an inch overnight. This moisture was much needed. Some planted crops have not emerged due to lack of moisture. Alfalfa has been cut for haylage this week.

ADAMS COUNTY, Tara Baugher (EXT) - Fruit growers are thinning apples and will continue to adjust crop load for the next week to 10 days. Fruit crop conditions look good as of now.

BERKS COUNTY, Mena Hautau (EXT) - Significant barley and alfalfa haylage and grass or alfalfa hay were harvested this week. One report of "light" harvest with alfalfa. Soybeans and most corn emerged this week. Much needed rain arrived Thursday and Friday. Some acreage must be replanted due to crusting. Winter wheat in flag stage; one report of wheat heading out. One vegetable grower reports planting field tomatoes this week.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - We got a "million dollar rain" on Friday, the first measurable moisture in 2 weeks. Bean planting had slowed down due to lack of rain and cool temperatures. Some early corn may need to be resprayed - lack of rain to activate herbicides.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - The rain will help improve conditions; we just need the heat to get the crops growing.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Field work continued. Hay is very short. Seven-tenths of an inch rain fell on Friday, which will help crops germinate and get hay growing. We need more showers and warm weather to get crops growing.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - Planting is wrapping up. Cool nights are slowing down plant growth. Recent rains and forecasted showers are easing concerns about soil moisture.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Good week for field work. Corn planters were rolling, finishing up the last of the planting, and farmers were making the transition to drilling soybeans. The week ended with a well needed rain to get things growing. Pastures have not experienced the fast growth period this year, making conditions difficult for graziers.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, John Rowehl - Soybean planting keeps progressing despite dry conditions. Growth of oats and new alfalfa seedlings is uneven due to dryness.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis (FSA) - Cooler temperatures continue in the area. Dryer conditions have permitted plowing to be completed in anticipation of corn and soybean planting.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Frost on Tuesday could have damaged the apple and peach buds. For the most part, blossoms were set and sprayed. We need warm days and rain. The spring planted crops are very slow in germinating.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA) - It was a week of fair weather except for Friday. Many showers over the weekend brought rain in excess of 1 inch. Full season corn is nearly all in as well as soybeans. We need rain to help the germination. Some areas of county received less than ¹/₄ of an inch of rain this month. The alfalfa harvest has begun; many are delaying as long as possible to get maximum growth. Quality is good, but yield is off by 25%. Barley and wheat yields are expected to be very common this year. Fruit reports indicate that late April frosts eliminated the pear crop and apricots.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - We received a gentle soaking rain of about ⁴/₁₀ of an inch on Friday.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NRCS) - Some areas were starting to show signs of moisture shortages until rain came on Friday. Farmers were busy installing conservation practices, making hay, and planting crops, including corn, soybeans and tobacco.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Welcomed, steady rains came Friday dropping about ⁶/₁₀ to ⁷/₁₀ of an inch, which was the first measurable rainfall this month. Corn and soybeans continued to be planted with the majority of the corn in the ground. A good deal of the first cutting alfalfa has been chopped. Wheat is heading and rye is being cut for straw. Looks like a tough week ahead to make dry hay.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C Sheaffer - Another week of good conditions for field work; however, the topsoil moisture levels are very low along with below normal temperatures. Crops are not growing. The hay crop is very short, and the corn and soybeans are slow at emerging. Some reports of replanting taking place. Light rainfall on Friday and Saturday did help. The main activities for the week were planting of corn and soybeans, cutting haylage and rylage, spraying herbicides and making machinery repairs.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney (NRCS) - Rain showers on Saturday brought some relief to very dry conditions. The first cutting of hay is being harvested with yields about ¹/₂ of what's expected. Corn is still being planted. Very cool temperatures are slowing crop growth.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - Not a nice spring start to the growing season, and it's getting colder by the week. Hay is slow growing, and there's been no rain to jumpstart growth. Early corn crop is up but little growth and set back from the cold. Pasture is the same as hay. Orchardgrass is starting to head out due to lack of rain.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS) - The hay and pastures do not have the height of a normal year. Some producers report that the hay is in the "boot stage." There is concern that the first cutting will not produce the tonnage expected this year.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Another good week for all types of field work. Planting progress has been excellent. The cool and relatively dry conditions have slowed plant growth slightly. Some first-cutting hay is now being harvested.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 22, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	95	89	88
Corn, planted	85	72	71
Corn, emerged	41	53	47
Barley, heading or headed	85	94	89
Barley, turning yellow	6	0	12
Wheat, heading or headed	46	66	58
Oats, emerged	91	70	81
Soybeans, planted	62	36	33
Soybeans, emerged	16	17	14
Tobacco, transplanted	20	37	24
Potatoes, planted	80	79	73
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	27	22	24
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	13	10	7

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 22, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	1	23	67	9
Wheat	0	1	17	70	12
Oats	0	6	24	57	13
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	3	27	54	16
Timothy clover stand	1	3	30	56	10
Quality of hay made	0	8	14	39	39
Pasture	1	6	35	44	14
Peaches	0	0	6	37	57
Apples	0	0	1	83	16

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